

BRIDGEMEDIA

“The Light of the World”

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2

Our autumn this year has been a really lovely time. It has been warm and relatively dry, and because the leaves have fallen off the trees so late the colours have been absolutely stunning. Leaves have been all sorts of shades of brown, red and yellow.

Now the days are much shorter and some days it seems to struggle to get light; working people go out in the dark and return home in the dark. However, it is not physical light and darkness which the Bible talks about, but spiritual light and darkness: a darkness in our heart and soul. The prophet Isaiah wrote the words above seven hundred years before Jesus came. The birth of Jesus was accompanied by the appearance of an angel and the glory of the Lord which was so bright that the shepherds were terrified. During his ministry Jesus told his disciples that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all, and Jesus also said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Jesus came to open our eyes to God’s love for us, and to draw us to the Father so that we too might live “in the light of God.” God wants us to know his presence and his peace in our hearts and he wants us, as it were, to walk through life hand in hand with him. As we have candles and different sorts of lights over the Christmas period, I trust that these will remind you of Jesus’ coming and the light that he is able to bring into our lives. A blessed Christmas time to you all!

Alan Ashworth

A message from the chairman of the trustees

Hullo Bridgemedians

Christmas will soon be upon us and the Home will be decorated to its normal seasonal standard with Christmas Trees, decorations and cards befits in our 'Home from Home'. I was let into the secret that the children at Widcombe Baptist Church Sunday School have already started rehearsing for the nativity service on 11th December – an occasion not to be missed.

Since last month's Bridgemedians we received the news that the preliminary application for the building extension was approved – now we are in the course of the detailed design process to make an application for full planning permission some time in December. This important phase enables us to be more open about our intentions. We have invited our neighbours to a public meeting on 24th November.

There is no doubt that our design team is working hard to produce a solution which will enhance the work of Bridgemedians and enable us to modernise the building to make it more enjoyable for those who live here. We will have more facilities and will be able to serve our residents better. The design of the new wing will be contemporary in a way that complements the award-winning design of the original design team 25 years ago.

This demands a lot of additional hard work on the part of Trustees and management – please pray for them as they devote many hours to the task of developing the design and to fundraising that is needed to provide a lot of money to carry out this work. We do not know precisely how much we need but it will be about £4million. Neither are we sure where all the money will come from - but we know that God knows. This is something else to pray about – that all our needs will be met.

One final point that I should mention is that, in October, we said 'goodbye' to two of our Trustees – Charles Curnock who was a Trustee for 20 years (15 years as chairman) and Alan Morley. Both Charles and Alan will be greatly missed – they made an enormous contribution to the work of Bridgemedians and were frequently seen around the home interacting with staff and residents. I am pleased that Caroline is continuing to serve as a volunteer – Bridgemedians wouldn't be quite the same without her!

That is all from me for 2016 – have a lovely Christmas and don't forget – there is more to Christmas than decorations and Christmas Trees – listen to the carols!



Friends of Bridgemead

Hullo Bridgemedians

Do you enjoy watching tennis? I do, and I spent a couple of days recently in London at the O2 watching the top eight male tennis players – it was excellent and I had the bonus of seeing the world number one – Andy Murray!

Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 3 December at Bridgemead 2.30pm. We shall be offering stalls selling cakes, books, tombola, gifts, jewellery, and £1 items. There will also be a hamper raffle. Refreshments will be on sale at £2. You can also win your Christmas cake in the 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition. For the first time since my association with Bridgemead I shall not be attending so I hope it will be a very happy afternoon.

Dates for your diary – Friday 3 March 2017 a Beetle Drive with Ploughman's Supper. 7pm Bridgemead £8 – bring your own drinks!

Friday 12 May is the date for our ever popular Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper. 7pm Bridgemead £12, again bring your own tipple!

May I take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Una

December Birthdays

Residents

14th December - Mary Lester

17th December - Doris Hunt



December Activities

Thursday 1st December - King Edward's School Choir

Friday 2nd December - Mike Renton's 'Sing-a-long'

Saturday 3rd December - Christmas Fayre

Monday 5th December - Rebecca Hazelhurst's 'Sing-a-long Cabaret'

Monday 5th December - Silver Ring Choir Concert (6.30pm)

Tuesday 6th December - Gavin Lazarus sings and plays the guitar

Wednesday 7th December - Weston TG Singers

Thursday 8th December - Danny Guest sings a Christmas medley

Friday 9th December - 'Musica' with Ella and her flute

Sunday 11th December - Nativity Play and Service

Monday 12th December - 'Forget-me-Not' sing and play

Tuesday 13th December - Chris Griffith sings

Wednesday 14th December - Salvation Army Band

Thursday 15th December - Alive! Variety Hour with Gill

Friday 16th December - Pantomime 'Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood'

December Activities

Monday 19th December - 'Now & Then' Christmas Sing-a-long

Tuesday 20th December - 'John-on-me-Tod' sings Christmas songs

Wednesday 21st December - Somer Valley Singers (Ladies Choir)

Thursday 22nd December - Circus Show

Farewell

Ron Taylor passed peacefully away at Bridgmead on Friday 28th October 2016. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Farewell to Alison Paul who at the age of 101 years passed calmly away at Bridgmead on Thursday 3rd November 2016. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family and friends.

Rachel Campbell passed quietly away at Bridgmead on Monday 14th November 2016. We share our prayers and condolences with Alistair and family.



Welcome

We would like to give a very warm welcome to our newest resident, Marion Williams.



The Remarkable Story of Bridgmead

Part 6. We have a 'site!'

So it was that in January 1987 a beautiful site in Bathwick, boasting a lovely river frontage, was found. There were two bungalows which needed to be demolished and planning permission would be necessary. In January the Trustees made an offer to purchase the site, hoping to have some financial support from '*Help the Aged*'. Perhaps not surprisingly, a commercial developer made a higher offer and purchased it - this was a great disappointment to our team – but not the only one. By March 1987 it was becoming clear that the developer was finding difficulty meeting the planning authorities' requirements and, on 10th March, with the hoped-for backing of '*Help the Aged*', the Trustees made a speculative offer to the developer to purchase the site from him. On 27th March a meeting was held with the developer. This was a very positive meeting from which the developer expressed an interest in the offer. Unfortunately this led to a second disappointment. '*Help the Aged*' withdrew its offer of financial support, believing that the developer was demanding too high a price. This was a second disappointment to the team who believed they were close to securing the site. In spite of this further setback the Trustees decided to move forward prayerfully. It seemed to them that they were being expected by God to depend on him - not on human agencies. Maybe they were being called to apply the principles that George Carey had described in his book? But was their faith strong enough? Our Trustees were being called to learn the principle others before them had to learn – *It's not great FAITH that is required but faith in a great GOD!* Negotiations between the Trustees and the developer subsequently broke down and the developer was compelled to withdraw his offer to purchase the site leaving the Trustees the opportunity to make a second approach to the owner of the land. They did not have the necessary funds were offered an interest free loan by a Christian businessman. And so, on 12th May 1987, the Trustees were able to make an offer and were overjoyed to learn the offer was accepted. On 20th June a contract for the sale of the site was signed. And so an important milestone was reached – a real start had been made and our Trustees had grown in their confidence of God's leading. They knew that there were many, as yet unknown, obstacles to be faced but they had learned that they would need to depend on the prayer support of many people as well as a commitment to dedication and hard work of themselves.

What they learned in 1987 is a challenge to us in 2016.

Don't miss the next instalment!



For further information on all the December events, please see the Christmas Programme booklet.

Virgin Money Giving

Bridgemead has a Virgin Money Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1007255>

Please note that Bridgemedica can now be found on our website. Go to www.bridgecare.org.uk, click on Bridge-media and you will find the latest issue. We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of Bridgemedica by e-mail, can you please let us know on admin@bridgecare.org.uk

All contributions to this newsletter are welcome from residents, relatives, staff and volunteers. If you have something you think would be of interest, anecdotes, personal recollections, news events, short poems or anything relevant would be welcome. Published by Bridge Care Ltd, Bridgemead, 81 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6PZ. Bridge Care is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity under number 299400. Limited Company registration number 2001246 (England).

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